

Fact Sheet 5

Bloodsworth Island Range Management Plan



What is the Bloodsworth Island Range Management Plan?

The Bloodsworth Island Range Management Plan (RMP) is a Navy plan for addressing the long-term viability of Bloodsworth Island Range. It outlines procedures and Navy entities responsible for protecting human health and the environment.

The plan is being developed to address range management issues such as personnel and public safety hazards related to unexploded ordnance (UXO), range security, access and control, environmental planning, natural and cultural resources management and community outreach.

Why is a Range Management Plan being developed?

An RMP is required by Department of Defense Directive 4715.11 (*Environmental and Explosives Safety Management on Department of Defense Active and Inactive Ranges within the United States*) for all U.S. military active and inactive ranges. The RMP will address procedures for range safety, security, scheduling, and environmental, cultural and natural resources management issues related to Bloodsworth Island Range transfer.

The RMP will be incorporated into the existing Integrated Management Plan, which consolidates national defense and environmental objectives for Patuxent River Complex operations.

What does the Range Management Plan have to do with public safety?

One of the main objectives of the RMP is to implement safety measures that will protect both Navy personnel and the public. Safety measures include prohibiting access to the



Setting up heron nesting platforms, top. Photo provided by NAS Patuxent River Natural Resources Division.

An F/A-18 Hornet takes to the skies, middle. Photo provided by U.S. Navy.

One of the "No Trespassing" signs on the perimeter of Bloodsworth. Photo provided by NAS Patuxent River Photo Imaging Lab.

islands, restricting access to surrounding waters, ensuring security of the islands, providing notification to mariners, and as needed, conducting UXO detection and removal. See the *Bloodsworth Island Range - Safety Fact Sheet* for more information.

Will the Range Management Plan address island natural resources?

Yes, the RMP will address natural resources. Even though Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River is the new manager of Bloodsworth Island Range, it has a long history of providing natural resources management support to the range.

The NAS Patuxent River Natural Resources Office, in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, is formulating a plan to sustain vital habitats on Bloodsworth, Adam, Pone and Northeast islands for the future. Please see the *Bloodsworth Island Range - Natural Resources Fact Sheet* for more information on past and present natural resource management efforts.

How will the Range Management Plan address environmental effects of operations?

The common objective of the Navy, NAS Patuxent River and the RMP is to maintain military operational readiness while protecting the environment.

This is accomplished by incorporating environmental analysis into the operational planning process. NAS Patuxent River, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), assesses and implements measures to mitigate the effects on the environment of all its military operations.

NAS Patuxent River will extend this environmental stewardship to Bloodsworth Island Range. The RMP will, in turn, outline the management issues surrounding this extension of environmental stewardship to Bloodsworth Island Range. It should be noted that whenever there is a change in operations planned for Bloodsworth Island Range, NAS Patuxent River will follow the required NEPA process to accurately assess the new operation's effects on the environment and surrounding communities. See *the Bloodsworth Island Range - Overview Fact Sheet* for more information regarding military operations at Bloodsworth Island.

Are there cultural resources on the range and will the Range Management Plan address their protection?

Yes. Although Bloodsworth Island has not been inhabited since the early 1900s, there is evidence of historic resources located on the island.

The RMP will establish procedures consistent with NAS Patuxent River's existing Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan to continue the protection of these cultural resources.

What role does the community play in the Range Management Plan?

NAS Patuxent River values its relationship with neighboring communities. This relationship is maintained and enhanced by continually working together to balance military training goals with community quality of life issues. To this end, the RMP will outline procedures for the public and the Navy to exchange information.

These Bloodsworth Island Range Fact Sheets are but one component of the outreach effort to keep the public informed of issues surrounding Bloodsworth Island Range and naval operations. NAS Patuxent River will continue to keep the public informed and provide opportunities for public input.

For more information, to make comments or ask questions, please contact us at the phone number or e-mail address listed on the other side of this fact sheet.

An aerial view of the Bloodsworth Island Range

